

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION  
(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Commissioner  
US Department of Commerce  
United States Patent and Trademark  
Office, PCT  
2011 South Clark Place Room  
CP2/5C24  
Arlington, VA 22202  
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 01 November 2000 (01.11.00)
International application No. PCT/GB00/00917
International filing date (day/month/year) 13 March 2000 (13.03.00)
Applicant WHITWORTH, Ian, James

Applicant's or agent's file reference  
SAJ/NP1059WO

Priority date (day/month/year)  
17 March 1999 (17.03.99)

## 1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

20 September 2000 (20.09.00)

in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

\_\_\_\_\_

2. The election  was

was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Authorized officer Pascal Piriou
Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inter Application No

PCT/00/00917

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 7 B68G9/00 A47C27/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B68G

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0 421 495 A (B LINEA) 10 April 1991 (1991-04-10) cited in the application column 3, line 38 -column 4, line 6 column 8, line 16 - line 38	1, 3-6, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16-24
A	EP 0 624 545 A (TOLEDO FJEDERINDLAEG AS) 17 November 1994 (1994-11-17)  figures 1, 4, 5	1, 3-6, 9, 11, 12, 16-20, 22-24
A	WO 96 07345 A (SIMMONS CO) 14 March 1996 (1996-03-14) claim 6	1, 7

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

## \* Special categories of cited documents :

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- \*&\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

2 June 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

14/06/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA  
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
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Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl.  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Martin, A

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Interr. Application No.

PCT/00/00917

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
EP 0421495	A 10-04-1991	BE 1003537 A		14-04-1992
		CA 2026817 A,C		06-04-1991
		DE 69008098 D		19-05-1994
		DE 69008098 T		13-10-1994
		DK 421495 T		08-08-1994
		ES 2053073 T		16-07-1994
		JP 2963754 B		18-10-1999
		JP 3121730 A		23-05-1991
		US 5126004 A		30-06-1992
		US 5637178 A		10-06-1997
EP 0624545	A 17-11-1994	AT 158263 T		15-10-1997
		DE 69314010 D		23-10-1997
		DE 69314010 T		16-04-1998
		DK 624545 T		09-03-1998
WO 9607345	A 14-03-1996	US 5621935 A		22-04-1997
		AU 1510695 A		27-03-1996
		EP 0779789 A		25-06-1997

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>SAJ/NP1059W0</b>	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. <b>PCT/GB 00/00917</b>	International filing date (day/month/year) <b>13/03/2000</b>	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) <b>17/03/1999</b>
Applicant <b>SPRINGFORM TECHNOLOGY LIMITED et al.</b>		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of **02** sheets.

It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the language, the International search was carried out on the basis of the International application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

the International search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the International application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the International application, the International search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

contained in the International application in written form.

filed together with the International application in computer readable form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the International application as filed has been furnished.

the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2.  Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3.  Unity of Invention is lacking (see Box II).

4. With regard to the title,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this International search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

as suggested by the applicant.

because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

because this figure better characterizes the invention.

**3**

None of the figures.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 00/00917

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 IPC 7 B68G9/00 A47C27/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
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**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

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A	EP 0 624 545 A (TOLEDO FJEDERINDLAEG AS) 17 November 1994 (1994-11-17) figures 1, 4, 5 ----	1, 3-6, 9, 11, 12, 16-20, 22-24
A	WO 96 07345 A (SIMMONS CO) 14 March 1996 (1996-03-14) claim 6 ----	1, 7



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

## \* Special categories of cited documents :

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
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- \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- \*&\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the International search

2 June 2000

Date of mailing of the International search report

14/06/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Authorized officer

Martin, A

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB 00/00917

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0421495	A 10-04-1991	BE 1003537 A CA 2026817 A,C DE 69008098 D DE 69008098 T DK 421495 T ES 2053073 T JP 2963754 B JP 3121730 A US 5126004 A US 5637178 A	14-04-1992 06-04-1991 19-05-1994 13-10-1994 08-08-1994 16-07-1994 18-10-1999 23-05-1991 30-06-1992 10-06-1997
EP 0624545	A 17-11-1994	AT 158263 T DE 69314010 D DE 69314010 T DK 624545 T	15-10-1997 23-10-1997 16-04-1998 09-03-1998
WO 9607345	A 14-03-1996	US 5621935 A AU 1510695 A EP 0779789 A	22-04-1997 27-03-1996 25-06-1997

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

14

Applicant's or agent's file reference 120/66/P/WO	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>		See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/GB00/00917	International filing date (day/month/year) 13/03/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 17/03/1999	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B68G9/00			
<p>Applicant SPRINGFORM TECHNOLOGY LIMITED et al.</p> <p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of sheets.</p> <p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report</li> <li>II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</li> <li>III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</li> <li>IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</li> <li>V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</li> <li>VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</li> <li>VII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</li> <li>VIII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</li> </ul>			

Date of submission of the demand 20/09/2000	Date of completion of this report 29.05.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority: European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Offmann, P Telephone No. +49 89 2399 2346



# INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/GB00/00917

## I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

### Description, pages:

1-9 as originally filed

### Claims, No.:

1-25 as originally filed

### Drawings, sheets:

1/3-3/3 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description,      pages:
- the claims,      Nos.:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB00/00917

the drawings,      sheets:

5.  This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c));  
*(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims 1-21,25
	No:	Claims 22-24
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims 1-21,25
	No:	Claims 22-24
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims 1-25
	No:	Claims

**2. Citations and explanations  
see separate sheet**

**VII. Certain defects in the international application**

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:  
**see separate sheet**

**VIII. Certain observations on the international application**

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:  
**see separate sheet**

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB00/00917

**AD SECTION I**

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: EP-A-0421495 (see columns 1-10; figures);

Although claims 1-21, 25 seem in principle to fulfill the requirements of Articles 33.2, 33.3 and 33.4 PCT, the subject-matter of claims 22-24 do not appear to be clear enough (contrary to Article 6 PCT) and therefore the present application does not fulfill the requirements of Article 33.2 PCT because claims 22-24 are not new over D1.

**AD SECTION V**

**A- NOVELTY**

The present application does not satisfy the criterion set forth in Article 33(2) PCT because the subject-matter of independent Claim 22 and dependent claims 23 and 24 is not new in respect of prior art as defined in the regulations (Rule 64(1)-(3) PCT)(see section VIII).

Indeed, D1, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses an innerspring assembly such as claimed in claims 22-24, since claims 22 and 23 do not contain any technical features in relation to the innerspring assembly per se.

The features of claim 24 are known from D1.

An innerspring assembly is not rendered novel merely by the fact that it product by means of a method according to claims 1-21 which seems to be novel over D1.

**AD SECTION VII**

- 1- The features of the claims have not been provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB00/00917

**AD SECTION VIII**

- 1- Claims 22 and 23 are product-claims relating to a method of manufacturing an innerspring assembly rather than clearly defining the product in terms of its technical features. The intended limitations are therefore not clear from these claim, contrary to the requirements of Article 6 PCT. Therefore, these claims become not new over the prior art (see section V)
- 2- The terms "relatively high" and "relatively low" used in claim 25 are vague and unclear and leave the reader in doubt as to the meaning of the technical features to which they refer, thereby rendering the definition of the subject-matter of said claim unclear (Article 6 PCT).
- 3- Claims 12-21, 23-25 are not supported by the description as required by Article 6 PCT.